

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 IO-14 ISO-00 ACDA-19 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01

PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20 USIA-15 TRSE-00 SAJ-01 AEC-11

AECE-00 OMB-01 DRC-01 /160 W
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P R 011342Z DEC 73

FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9026

SECDEF WASHDC PRIORITY

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY VIENNA

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

USMISSION GENEVA

S E C R E T SECTION 01 OF 02 BONN 17324

GENEVA CSCE DEL

VIENNA FOR MBFR DEL

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, MCAP, EEC, NATO, GW, FR

SUBJECT: EOROE EUROPEAN DEFENSE COOPERATION

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1. BEGIN SUMMARY: RELIABLE FONOFF NATO DEPARTMENT OFFICIAL TELLS US THAT BRANDT, LEBER AND SCHEEL WILL MEET NEXT WEEK FOR FURTHER CONSULTATION ON EUROPEAN DEFENSE COOPERATION ISSUE PRIOR TO DECEMBER EC COPENHAGEN SUMMIT. OUR SOURCES BELIEVE FRANCE IS NOW SERIOUS ABOUT ACCELERATING EUROPEAN DEFENSE COOPERATION, PREFERABLY ALONG DESIRED FRENCH LINES,BUT ARE HOPEFUL THAT PARIS WILL IN TIME ACCEPT FRG PREFERENCE FOR UTILIZING EUROGROUP AS FORERUNNER OF EVENTUAL EC 9 COOPERATION IN SECURITY AND DEFENSE FIELDS. FONOFF REP ALSO PROVIDED ANALYSIS OF DISADVANTAGES OF WEU AND ASSESSMENT OF GOF PURPOSES IN RECENT FRENCH STATEMENTS CRITICAL OF THE US/SOVIET CONDOMINIUM. END SUMMARY

2. RELIABLE FONOFF NATO DEPT. OFFICIAL TOLD EMBOFF NOVEMBER 30 THAT BONN BELIVES PARIS IS NOW GENUINELY SERIOUS REGARDING PARTICIPATION IN INTENSIFIED WEST EUROPEAN DEFENSE COOPERATION. WHILE THE ULTIMATE FRENCH OBJECTIVE REMAINS UNCLEAR AND IS PROBABLY NOT YET FIRMLY FIXED, THE GERMANS ARE SOMEWHAT CONCERNED THAT PARIS MAY PROPOSE VARIATION OF FOUCHET PLAN,LOOKING TO REPLACEMENT OF ALLIANCE IN TIME BY NEW AND SEPARATE ENTITY. FOR THIS REASON,FONOFF WAS UNHAPPY WITH BRANDT'S COMMENT TO POMPIDOU THAT FRG ALSO COULD CONSIDER EUROPEAN DEFENSE COOPERATION IN FRAMEWORK BESIDES EUROGROUP. OUR SOURCE TELLS US NATO DEPT. HAS PREPARED COMPREHENSIVE PAPER ON DEFENSE COOPERATION TOPIC WHICH FOREIGN MINISTER SCHEEL WILL USE DURING MEETING NEXT WEEK WITH CHANCELLOR BRANDT AND DEFENSE MINISTER LEBER.

3. FON OFF REP SAID FRG KNOWS PARIS IS UNLIKELY TO RETURN TO NATO INTEGRATED MILITARY COMMAND STRUCTURE, BUT BELIEVES THIS IS NOT ESSENTIAL IN THE MEDIUM RUN IF FRENCH FORCES COOPERATE EFFECTIVELY WITH INTEGRATED NATO FORCES. IN THE PRESENT PERIOD OF FLUIDITY, HE SAID, IT IS ESSENTIAL THAT THE UTMOST CARE BE USED IN ORDER NOT TO PREJUDICE THE CHANCES FOR ENHANCED FRENCH COOPERATION WITH OTHER NATO EUROPEAN PARTNERS. OUR SOURCE SAID BONN TENDED TO READ RECENT

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STATEMENTS BY JOBERT CRITICAL OF US/SOVIET CONDOMINIUM, ATOMIC AGREEMENT, AND FAILURE TO CONSULT OVER MID-EAST CRISIS AS REFLECTIONS OF GENERAL FRENCH DISPLEASURE BUT ALSO "SMOKE SCREEN" FOR GAULLISTS BEHIND WHICH PARIS COULD MOVE TOWARD GREATER EUROPEAN DEFENSE COOPERATION.

4. AS TO FRG OBJECTIVES, FONOFF REP SAID LONG TERM

AIM IS THAT EC 9 COOPERATE IN DEFENSE AND SECURITY
FIELDS AS PART OF MOVEMENT TOWARD "EUROPEAN
FEDERATION"; ("EUROPEAN FEDERATION" ARE OF COURSE THE
MAGIC WORDS REGARDING EUROPEAN NUCLEAR OPTION ISSUE).
FONOFF REP SAID HE THOUGHT CURRENT FRENCH GOVERNMENT
PROBABLY SHARED THIS LTIMATE OBJECTIVE; HE SAID
JOBERT IMPLIED AS MUCH IN RECENT BILATERAL MEETINGS
WITH SCHEEL IN PARIS.

5. AS TO THE SHORT AND MEDIUM TERMS, FONOFF OFICIAL
SAID BONN BELIEVES EUROGROUP IS WORKING EFFECTIVELY
AND TENDS TO SUPPORT RATHER THAN WEAKEN THE CASE FOR
US PRESENCE AND THUS TO STRENGTHEN THE ALLIANCE. THE
OPTIMUM COURSE WOULD BE TO BRING THE FRENCH IN SOME

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WAY INTO EUROGROUP AS A FIRST STEP AND THEN DEVELOP THE
EUROGROUP EVENTUALLY INTO A HARD CORE EC 9 FORUM.
FON OFF REP NOTED THAT IT WOULD NOT BE TOO DIFFICULT
TO ASSOCIATE OTHER NON EC EUROGROUP MEMBERS WITH
EVENTUAL EC TYPE FORUM; HE NOTED IN THIS CONNECTION
THAT GREECE AND TURKEY ARE PRESENTLY
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ASSOCIATE MEMBERS OF THE EEC AND THAT NORWAY MIGHT
STILL JOIN THE EC. AS TO IRELAND, FONOFF REP
SAID ONE MUST SIMPLY ASSUME THAT DUBLIN UNDERSTOOD
UPON JOINING THE COMMUNITY THAT IT WOULD EVENTUALLY
DEVELOP INTO A FEDERATION ALSO ENTAILING DEFENSE
RESPONSIBILITIES AND THAT IRELAND COULD NOT IN THESE
CIRCUMSTANCES REMAIN NEUTRAL.

6. TURNING TO JOBERT'S WEU SPEECH, FONOFF REP SAID WEU
WOULD HAVE TO BE CHANGED BEYOND RECOGNITION IF IT WERE
TO BE AN APPROPRIATE FORUM TO FULFILL THE AIMS OF
EUROPEAN DEFENSE COOPERATION. HE SAID THERE WOULD BE
ALLIANCE PROBLEMS SUCH AS DENMARK, IRELAND AND PERHAPS
OTHERS. THERE WOULD BE THE OBVIOUS
GERMAN PROBLEM REGARDING ARMAMENT RESTRICTIONS
AND THERE WOULD BE A FRENCH PROBLEM RELATED TO
STRATEGY, BECAUSE WEU TREATY, ARTICLE V, STATES THAT
IN CASE OF ATTACK ON A MEMBER STATE, EVERY OTHER
MEMBER STATE MUST ASSIST THE ATTACKED STATE WITH ALL
THEIR FORCES; OUR SOURCE NOTED THAT THIS PROVISION IS
HARDLY COMENSURATE WITH CURRENT FRENCH STRATEGY.
FONOFF REP CONCLUDED THAT A MAJOR SHIFT OF EUROPEAN
EFFORTS INTO THE WEU WOULD HAVE THE EFFECT OF
DESTROYING THE EUROGROUP AS AN EFFECTIVE INSTRUMENTAL-
ITY OF DEFENSE COOPERATION AND AS A POTENTIAL
PROGENITOR OF A COHESIVE EUROPEAN DEFENSE ENTITY.

REVIEW OF PAPER
PREPARED FOR SCHEEL, EMBOFF INQUIRED CONCERNING
PROSPECTS FOR FRENCH PARTICIPATION IN EUROGROUP.
FONOFF REP SAID HE WAS REASONABLY HOPEFUL IN VIEW OF
RECENT COMMENTS MADE IN CABINET BY GERMAN AND BRITISH

MINISTERS. HE SAID THESE MINISTERS PREDICTED THAT URGENT FRENCH CONCERN OVER MEDIUM TERM STABILITY OF US TROOP PRESENCE AND INCREASING PRESSURE FROM FRENCH ARMS INDUSTRY, TOGETHER WITH LONG STANDING DESIRE OF SENIOR FRENCH MILITARY OFFICERS, IS LIKELY TO PROPEL FRANCE IN THE FORESEEABLE FUTURE TO SOME FORM OF COOPERATION WITH EUROGROUP. IN PARTICULAR, OUR SOURCE PASSED ON REPORT OF CONVERSATION BETWEEN GERMAN EMBOFF IN PARIS AND FRENCH ARMS INDUSTRY EXECUTIVE

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DASSAULT. DASSAULT REPORTEDLY SAID HE AND HIS COLLEAGUES ARE DETERMINED TO PRESS THE GOF TOWARD CLOSER ALLIANCE RELATIONS AND EUROGROUP MEMBERSHIP, BOTH IN INTEREST OF SENSIBLE FRENCH DEFENSE POLICY AND IN ORDER TO FEATHER THE SAGGING NEST OF THE FRENCH ARMS INDUSTRY.

HILLENBRAND

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